THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) As per the information available, the pendency of cases in Supreme Court has increased from 39780 at the end of the year 2006 to 50,659 as on 1st June, 2009. The details of the opening balance, cases instituted, disposed of and pending year-wise since 2006 is given below:-

Sl. No.	Year	Opening balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end of year
1.	2006	34481	61839	56540	39780
2.	2007	39780	69103	61957	46926
3.	2008	46926	70357	67464	49819

(c) The following steps have been taken to reduce the backlog of pending cases:

(1) Judges' strength in Supreme Court has been increased from 26 to 31.

(2) Benches of Supreme Court were constituted for hearing urgent matters as well as old regular matters during summer vacation.

(3) Five and more matters on Identical issues are treated as a group matter instead of 10 and more matters earlier, which has helped in achieving significant increase in the number of disposals.

(4) Directions has been issued to streamline and to make effective the listing of cases before various courts.

(5) Cases involving identical/common question(s) of law are posted before the appropriate Bench.

(6) Three days of each week are earmarked for hearing regular matters.

(7) A large number of matters have been taken up for final disposal instead of the usual course of granting leave and hearing in due course.

(8) Constitution Bench and Larger Bench sit regularly to decide important Questions of law, particularly in a large number of matters involving common issues.

(9) All the fresh matters are listed within 10 to 14 days of registration and many disposed of at the preliminary hearing.

(10) Number of matters listed before each Bench on Miscellaneous Days has been increased.

(11) More Division Benches now deal with criminal cases.

Disclosure of assets by judges

†1704. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the points on which the case pertaining to disclosure of assets by the judges of High Courts and Supreme Court moved by the Supreme Court, is pendrng with the Delhi High Court;

(b) whether the public disclosure of assets of judges comes under the purview of right to information; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether this questions the transparency of judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Writ Petition (C) No.288 of 2009 has been filed by the Registrar, Supreme Court of India in the High Court of Delhi against the decision dated 6th January, 2009 of the Central Information Commission directing to provide information as to whether any declaration of assets had been filed by the Judges of the Supreme Court or not, is pending consideration of the Delhi High Court.

(b) and (c) The matter is subjudice.

Judicial reforms

†1705. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to take steps for judicial reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intends to make a legislation for declaration of assets by Judges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is preparing a roadmap for judicial reforms in the country which aims, *inter alia,* at reducing pendency in the courts, at providing quick and effective justice, introducing accountability of the judges and bringing in transparency in judicial processes for the litigants. The details of the roadmap are being worked out.

(c) and (d) The matter is presently under examination.

Grants for evening courts

1706. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received proposals to give grants to the newly established evening courts;

(b) if so, whether such proposal have also been received from the Gujarat Government;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.